

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 8 and 10 are canceled.

New claim 11 is added. New claim 11 is similar to claim 6, but was made separate from claim 6 to provide clear antecedent basis for the recited "tube body".

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7, 9 and 11 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 3, 7 AND 8 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER THE ADMITTED PRIOR ART IN VIEW OF TODOKORO

The present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1, relates to a light-emitting tube array display device comprising (a) a light-emitting tube array constituted of a plurality of light-emitting tubes arranged in parallel with discharge gas filled therein; (b) a light-transmitting supporter abutting a display surface side of the light-emitting tube array for supporting the light-emitting tube array and having electrodes, crossing the light emitting tubes and formed on a surface of the supporter facing the light-emitting tube array, for applying a voltage to the light-emitting tubes; (c) a phosphor layer formed on a rear side inner wall of each light-emitting tube; (d) a light-transmitting adhesive layer formed between the supporter and the light-emitting tube array; (e) a rear side substrate abutting a surface of each light-emitting tube so that the light-emitting tube array is held between the supporter and the rear side substrate; (f) electrodes formed on a surface of the rear side substrate facing the light-emitting tubes and extending in a direction crossing the electrodes formed on the surface of the supporter; and (g) a resin layer formed in a space formed by the light-emitting tubes and the supporter.

As recited, for example, in claim 1, the adhesive layer has a refractive index equal to or higher than that of a tube body of each light-emitting tube.

Please note that claim 1 is amended to clarify the above features. Similar amendments are made to claims 2 and 3. Support for the amendments is found, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 2; and on page 10, lines 8-13; page 8, last line, through page 9, line 9; and page 19, lines 13-24, of the specification. See also the disclosure in the original claims 8 and 10.

It is respectfully submitted that the references, taken individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest such features.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIM 4 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE
OVER THE ADMITTED PRIOR ART IN VIEW OF TODOKORA, BHAGAVATULA
AND KOIKE

The comments in Section II, above, also apply here, where appropriate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIM 5 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE
OVER THE ADMITTED PRIOR ART IN VIEW OF TODOKORA AND HIROSHI

The comments in Section II, above, also apply here, where appropriate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIM 6 UNDER 36 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER
THE ADMITTED PRIOR ART IN VIEW OF TODOKORO, HIROSHI, BHAGAVATULA,
KOIKE AND KUBOTA

The comments in Section II, above, also apply here, where appropriate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VI. REJECTION OF CLAIM 9 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER
THE ADMITTED PRIOR ART IN VIEW OF TODOKORA AND KUBOTA

The comments in Section II, above, also apply here, where appropriate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VII. REJECTION OF CLAIM 10 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER
THE ADMITTED PRIOR ART IN VIEW OF TODOKORA AND BHAGAVATULA

The comments in Section II, above, also apply here, where appropriate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

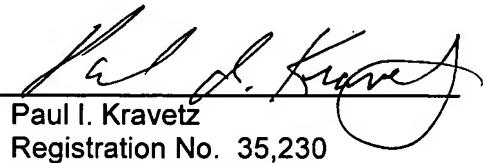
If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By:



Paul I. Kravetz
Registration No. 35,230

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501